

PERMISSION

EDIT CREDIT: MEAGAN MATTHEWS

1 Peter 5:8 *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*

The word “may”, which is not actually in the Hebrew Interlinear, indicates that the enemy needs permission. Permission is an interesting word defined as such: [consent](#), [authorization](#), [go-ahead](#), [approval](#), [agreement](#), [acquiescence](#), [green light](#), [clearance](#), [carte blanche](#)

Reading further in the Scripture we **assume** that the permission is given by God, however, this is ludicrous in view of all the Scriptures and of Jesus whose fight was to cast out the enemy wherever there was affliction. The Pharisees accused Jesus of being able to cast out Beelzebub because they charged Him as being in cahoots with Beelzebub. In other words Jesus was accused of using the enemy’s efforts and could control the enemy to cease as well, for which Jesus replied if that were the case then God’s Kingdom would be divided against itself and would fall. [Matt 12:25; Lu 11:17]

God frequently warned people of Satan’s desire to find an opening for a strike. Look at God’s warning to Cain: *Gen*

4:6-7 *And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his [sin’s] desire, and thou shalt rule over him [sin].*

The Hebrew word for **lieth** is רָבַט *râbats* meaning to *crouch (on all four legs folded, like a recumbent animal); by implication lurk, imbed: - crouch (down), in other words, to lay in wait for an opportunity. That is clearly the picture of the enemy crouching like a lion. God’s instruction was for Cain to rule over all the thoughts plaguing him and not give way to the enemy’s deception. Of course, we know that instead Cain continued to dwell in deception until the act was completed. It is when we are **not** doing well that sin is crouched at our door ready to devour. It is we who either answer that door or close it to the enemy. The enemy is cunning enough to give us justification to open the door to his thoughts, but God gives us the instruction to rule over the unwanted visitor from which all darkness comes and stop him in his tracks.*

Another example was when Peter was under the enemy’s scrutiny and Je-

sus warned him: *Luke 22:31-32 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.*

Why would Jesus pray against an action in which God was permitting? Peter was not doing well, and the lion was crouched at his door waiting. Jesus prayed that his faith would not fail and that he would be converted back. “Converted” is the Greek word *epistrephō* to *revert* (literally, figuratively or morally): - come (go) again, convert, (re-) turn (about, again). Peter would have to convert back to the most holy faith and not allow the fear of what the enemy could do rule him. Peter was to rule over fear so the enemy would have no permission for further action.

The perfect example is the surveillance of Job, which I wrote in the July 2011 issue: [read Job 1:7-11]. Notice all the information Satan gathered just strolling to and fro, up and down.

- He knew Job’s faith
- Where Job lived
- That he had a hedge or a home protection alarm installed
- He knew who installed the hedge and alarm

system

The entire property of Job, which included:

- Barns, sheds and all out buildings
- Relatives living on said properties
- Animals and yielding fields
- Job’s blessings or financial picture

Satan was stalking Job. Any stalker looks for the predictability of his prey in order to strike at the right time in the right area of weakness. Job had the same problem with fear as was Peter’s “Achilles heel”. We do not get a clue as to this fear except that Job made sacrifices for his children constantly because of their behaviors, in which he feared for their lives. Later we see that fear had been ever present...crouched at his door. God knew Satan had been laying in wait to get Job.

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PERMISSION *continued*

Satan tempted God to put forth His hand to the destruction of all Job had, but James 1:13-17 says, *Let no man say when he is tempted/tested, I am tempted/ tested of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted/tested, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no*

variableness, neither shadow of turning.”

By God’s statement to Satan about Job, we see that Job was either going to rule over fear or open the door and allow fear to have its completed work. God’s statement, “Behold, all that he hath is in thy power...” did not give Satan permission but stated the fact that fear in all areas was within Satan’s power, and if Job walked in fear Satan would use the opportunity.

That sentence was a statement of fact. A declarative sentence merely states a fact having noth-

ing whatever to do with giving permission.

Man would rather embrace the idea that we have no will of our own and that God plays us as puppets tossing us to and fro like rag dolls that we may blame Him for our “lot” in life. However, it is clear by the Scripture in James 1:13-17 that it is our tolerance to sin that tosses us about.

How is your countenance today? Do you have an issue of health, worry, fear or unresolved unforgiveness? God is saying today: “Why art thou wroth or why is thy countenance fallen? If thou

doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his [sin’s] desire, and thou shalt rule over him [sin].

Do not give permission by carrying out the thoughts that plague you. Believe and trust in God and rule over the giant. It only takes the pebble of faith the size of a mustard seed to bring him down and cut off his head! Have a no tolerance policy to anger or negative and fearful thoughts. Cut off Satan’s permission.

CONTINGENCY POINT

Instructions are contingent upon being followed...that is, they are conditional. For example, when buying an appliance, it is always wise to read the instructions and warnings to have a well working piece of equipment. In ignorance we could be hurting the life of the appliance if we are oblivious to its upkeep and maintenance.

Likewise, we too have instructions contingent upon our following them. Ignorance is not bliss for the Christian, for it is what we do not know that can hurt us. We speak idle chit chat in ignorance disregarding the instruction that life and death are in our tongues [Pro 18:21] and that we will eat the fruit of our words. Whatever comes to mind spills out of the mouth. Even some, considered the more conservative of Christians, have leaky mouths with the drip, drip of ignorance now and then. It is then good to remember this Scripture: *Prov 17:28 Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: and he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding.*

One Scripture, I often if not mostly hear, is that there is now no condemnation to those who have accepted Christ Jesus. This is

a misquote in that it is made into a contraction. A contraction leaves out something to shorten it. The entire quote is: *Rom 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are IN Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*

This Scripture is not talking about asking Jesus IN our lives meaning salvation; it is talking about our being IN Christ. There is a difference. When Christ is in us we have accepted Him into our hearts and lives, but when we are IN Him we are not living our lives but His life. We are walking IN His Spirit and not by our intellect, desires or at our own convenience. It does not matter what we think but what HE thinks that matters. It is not in where we go but in where HE takes us.

Jesus sacrificed His life and died for us that we might be a living sacrifice for Him, which is our reasonable service: *Rom 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye trans-*

formed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

A good example is the children in the wilderness whose God was with them, yet they were not necessarily *with* God. They believed that God was on their side, but God wanted them on HIS side.

We are no different today in that we believe that God goes with us wherever we go, and that He is on our side so that there is no condemnation because we have accepted Christ as our Savior.

Every time we walk carnally we are condemned to the consequences. Those consequences do not take away our eternal life but take away the abundant life Jesus came to bring us.

It would do us well to consider the whole instruction of Rom 8, especially verses like this in chapter 8: *12-14 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they*

are the sons of God.

I have used this example many times, but it is good to insert it here for further study: Psalms 23

- He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
- He leadeth me beside the still waters.
- He restoreth my soul:
- He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
- Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

You see when WE decide not to be led by the green pastures and still waters and turn our feet to the valleys, God *is* still with us. Even in the midst of battles and circumstances we do not need to turn our feet from the pastures and waters to delve into the valleys if we are IN Him. It is fear of the situation which leads us by the nose. Being *in* Christ and walking in the Spirit is contingent with living in abundance where “there is therefore now no condemnation.”



IN WRITING

In small claims court, getting something in writing can either win or overturn a case. I have known of several instances that even a small one word notation on a check's memo won the case. In another case a love letter indicated a gift rather than a loan overturning the suit of payment. Text messages have been used to prove a case as well as emails and notes on Facebook.

Jesus used the phrase "It is written" to prove His own case against the devil's temptation in the wilderness [Matt 4:1-10]. God, Himself, wrote the ten commandments...a writing clearly set in stone!

We have the promises of God in a written guarantee called the Bible. Those promises stipulate the terms of the Benefactor for the beneficiary. God even had Moses write down the law for the people to understand the boundaries of their safety and provision yet what could happen in crossing those boundaries. Crossing God's boundaries, like coloring outside of the lines, is not a pretty picture!

POTENTIAL ENERGY

Teaching about potential energy to my fourth graders, I used a large rubber band and pulled it taut but did not let it go. The potential to move is there but without movement it remains just potential. Potential means possible, conceivable, imaginable **but as yet not actual.**

Think about this in regard to Christians today. Many Christians have the potential to accomplish much for the Kingdom of God, yet this often remains in the state of potential energy for

The proof is not only in the writing but in the stipulated agreement we make with what is written. A great example is in Ps 91. The stipulation for the beneficiary is that if we will dwell in the secret place of God abiding under His shadow making Him our refuge and fortress with our complete trust, then He will cover us from harm and be for us a shield and buckler. If we will not be in fear of the pestilence and destruction that we see coming but trust in Him, no evil will befall us nor will plague come near because God will give His angels charge over us to keep us safe from falling prey to the enemy, and we will trample the enemy under foot etc.

The Scripture does not say if you believe in God and go to church that you will automatically receive these benefits. Many people visit church every Sunday, but that does not mean that they ***dwell*** with God. To dwell with God is to live in habitation with God. God is the location of our lives...where we live not where we occasionally frequent as the need arises.

If you want an example of trust

our lack of movement upon the things we know we can and should do. Anything is possible, conceivable, imaginable and the capabilities are even there, yet it is all bound up in potentiality not actuality.

The cemetery is filled with the remains of lives that had great potential. Their potential was buried with them never becoming a reality. How many lives remained untouched simply because someone had the potential to make a difference but

look at this statement given by Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego when threatened with the fiery furnace: ***Dan 3:16-18 O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.***

These three were neither mincing words nor taking time to reason among themselves to find some loophole to save their...butts. They answered straightly having full trust in the God they served. Their dwelling place was God, and He was their shield and buckler against the fire. They did not know how the story would end up; they just knew that their trust was in God for the outcome. They had made their contract with God's written promises, and God watched over His Word to perform it.

Christians believe that the promises are automatic rather than terms of an agreement in which

never moved on it?

The saying that comes to mind is: ***You can't take it with you!*** Every gift is given for the purpose of fulfillment. All the potential you have is not to be buried in the ground but spent here on earth. Heaven does not need our potential. It was sent in the container of man to be expended making a difference to the lives on earth. ***In other words, we were born as a package to be delivered.***

they have a part.

How can we live outside of the promise but expect its answer? We cannot, for the Word says: ***For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways. James 1:7-8***

We are neither to waver in faith nor waver from our commitment to those promises. We are to be an active participant working and walking alongside Christ Jesus. We make the agreement to follow after the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is not our room service, but we are in service together.

We need to live the red letters of Jesus. They are red by His blood. Jesus paid a dear price for those Words to be written. No other writing in the Bible is written in blood as we hear them echo, ***"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."*** ***Matt 24:35; Mk 13:31; Lu 21:33***

Jesus told us that we could do everything that He did and greater. He showed us what "moving energy" was all about and even gave the command to ***move*** forth.

Potential is not something you can see to believe. It does not require a degree and, for God's sake, leave intellect out of it and do not try to reason with it.

No matter how small the potential remember what even a small spark can do to a dry land!

[continued in the article "Friction"]



FRICITION

While teaching my students about potential energy, another thing I taught them was the word **friction: the resistance encountered by an object moving relative to another object with which it is in contact.** Friction has the ability to slow down a moving effort. In the case of Christianity Satan introduces friction to slow us down.

You see, when our lives are going smoothly it is easy to move and quickly, but add a rough surface and some difficulty, and that movement can slow to a halt very suddenly.

Our road is filled with rough surfaces that have taken our very skin. Somehow through this friction we have **learned** that becoming sedentary is less painful, less effort, less hassle and more convenient to our peace. This is far from true, however, because when our purpose dies our joy is gone. Without the hope of joy, our lives are but dry shells of disappointment after disappointment. Have you ever seen a large working-class dog put into a small cage of an outdoors fence where movement is minimal? The poor dog will waste away because all that is left to it is eating, drinking, defecating and watching every other creature move or fly about.

We were not sent to earth with great potential to sit watching television, eating, drinking and defecating! I would ask your

pardon for that statement, but if I have to hear it, so do you. The Holy Spirit is speaking it loudly to all of us, and he who hath an ear to hear...let us hear what the Spirit is saying: ***Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. Heb 12:1-3***

Jesus did not let friction slow Him down from His purpose. He used up the potential He was appointed and gave us knowledge of the potential we possessed. If there was ever the friction of a rough road, Jesus traveled it. He did not ask Himself every waking day if He was having fun. He simply moved against all the friction and His potential became **actual** in salvation to all needing saved.

If you thought, "well, but that was JESUS." Then let me add George Washington who did not stop during the friction of Valley Forge to give us a nation of free-

dom. What about Abraham Lincoln who lost many runs as a candidate but continued on until he was in the position of proclaiming the Emancipation Proclamation to set the captives free even through a horrible war of brother fighting brother in order to free a brother! A limelight may be on Washington and Lincoln, but who inspired them to become who they became in history? What of a praying mother or the example of a father walking the walk of integrity? What of a pastor to inspire with words of life and stir the hearts? What of a friend to touch another friend in support, and what of a word of encouragement in due season? Think these things not a little effort. Each little effort overcomes the friction in another's life that their potential is not squandered away.

Christianity is not based on our attendance to sit in a pew but in our participation to the purpose for which we were delivered here on earth at this particular time.

As I am writing this, I perceive the aged saying, "I cannot get around anymore. My body won't let me do what it used to do." If you can read this article and understand its purpose, then you have the ability to change nations through your intercession. You do not need legs to go into all the earth, your intercession will be the very force God can watch over to perform. Remember God was looking for someone to

stand in the gap, but no one was available. The friction of the aged is in feeling alone and without purpose, but you are the ones who make a Washington or Lincoln. Look at Anna [Lu 2:36-38] who was of great age and widowed. She could have sat feeling as if life passed her by, but she interceded night and day. God let her see the reward of her consolation when Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple for dedication. Anna witnessed her answer and saw the Savior.

If you are the aged I am speaking to, then close your eyes to what you see in the natural, focus your spirit on your consolation and see your Savior. In a busy world of the hustle and bustle of movement all around, God is looking for someone who will sit, listen and pray. You may never know in this life the greatness you have stirred in prayer to change the world for God's Kingdom, but one fine day you will hear these words: ***Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. Matt 25:21***

Spend all the potential God gave you, for you cannot take it with you. It is a currency valid here only. The currency changes in Heaven.

RED FLAG!

An article posted 12/27/2011 in The New York Times reads: “Dr. Fouchier’s research group had taken one of the most dangerous flu viruses ever known and made it even more dangerous — by tweaking it genetically to make it more contagious. What shocked the researchers was how easy it had been, Dr. Fouchier said. Just a few mutations was all it took to make the virus go airborne.

The discovery has led advisers to the United States government, which paid for the research, to urge that the details be kept secret and not published in scientific journals to prevent the work from being replicated by terrorists, hostile governments or rogue scientists.”

GOOD GRIEF CHARLIE BROWN! Are you kidding me? If this is top secret then why do we even have a hint of this? It is as if we want to give the enemy something with which to work. I mean really, look what information they gave:

1. They just tweaked it
2. It was easily done
3. Just in a few mutations and VOILA What scientist in the world arena could not possibly tweak a few mutations and get the virus airborne?

Who let this information out to The New York Times anyway? We know that it did not stay within the research group, and if that did not stay within the secrecy of the group what else is leaking out?

Why do matadors wave a red flag in front of a destructive, angry bull? It makes you wonder where the AIDS virus really started. It is not a homosexual disease, but a disease transmitted through sexual contact. Where did this little mutation start...in some laboratory, by scientists not willing to admit their err for fear of losing funding?

Then we have a further update posted by REUTERS 12/30/2011: “The World

Health Organization issued a stern warning on Friday to scientists who have engineered a highly pathogenic form of the deadly H5N1 bird flu virus, saying their work carries significant risks and must be tightly controlled.

The United Nations health body said it was ‘deeply concerned about the potential negative consequences’ of work by two leading flu research teams who this month said they had found ways to make H5N1 into an easily transmissible form capable of causing lethal human pandemics.

The work by the teams, one in The Netherlands and one in the United States, has already prompted an unprecedented censorship call from U.S. security advisers who fear that publishing details of the research could give potential attackers the know-how to make a bioterror weapon.”

This is how our tax dollars work for us! Now that I have your dander up and you see the stupidity of the world’s intellectuals, let me tap this into a lesson for Christians.

We have an enemy, namely Satan, who also has troops called demons. They go about seeking whom they MAY destroy. We have within our power the secrets that will cause our destruction through individual weaknesses. We give away these secrets when we get into idle chat about those things that will cause us to react negatively, for example:

- “If he does **that** one more time, I am going to leave him.” [Divorce]
- “If she brings anything up about **this**, I will give her a piece of mind that she will never forget!” [Strife]
- “If my boss adds one more thing for me to do, I’m quitting.” [Lack]
- “I have always seen myself dying young.” [Death]
- “I’m afraid of getting cancer like my dad.” [Disease]

The enemy takes that information and tweaks it into a few mutations and before

you know it, you are living the results of what you leaked to the enemy.

We run the risk of terrorism through our ignorant leaks. God’s children have been plagued with terrorism since the Garden of Eden. This is nothing new. We wave a red flag in Satan’s face and wonder when the enemy charges at it.

Job is a great example of this terrorism, coming through the leaks of his own mouth: “For the thing which I GREATLY FEARED is come unto me. I was not in safety, neither had I rest, **NEITHER WAS I QUIET**; yet trouble came.” (Job 3:25-26)

Proverbs has words of not only great wisdom but Truth itself: “A fool’s mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul. . . . Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.” Pro. 18:7,21

“In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: **but he that refraineth his lips is wise.**” Prov 10:19

“**He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life:** but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction.” Prov 13:3

“An ungodly man diggeth up evil: and **in his lips there is as a burning fire.**” Prov 16:27

“He shutteth his eyes to devise froward things: moving **his lips he bringeth evil to pass.**” Prov 16:30

“Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: and he that **shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding.**” Prov 17:28

We may not see the terrorist just an ear shot away from our words and waiting for the next leak to form an attack. The best remedy for scientists and Christians is to ditch the red flag entirely and not give away our secrets...period!